



Wetlands Working Group

The Wildlife Society

February Meeting Minutes
February 23, 2017 – 1 pm CST

Attendees: Jennifer Chutz, Adonia Henry, Johanna E. Duffy, Auriel Fournier

I. Admin

- a. Annual Report - DONE (DUE 1/31)
- b. Request to Council Action Format - DONE (DUE 2/3/17)
 - i. Mistakenly didn't turn in the September 2016 version of this report, so we resubmitted that info about "Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats in the U.S." Position Statement (see below) along with new info.

ACTION ITEMS:

II. Treasurer Report

- a. Jen went to US Bank in Helena to see what was needed to set up a new business account. Needs \$100, meeting minutes with title of parent organization and working group, names & titles of all officers, my and Auriel's signature (in person), and once Auriel moves physical locations, a utility bill with her new physical address (required when there is a move in previous 90 days).
- b. \$275 check for student award cleared from late October.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Adonia - Send Jen checks made out to the Wetlands Working Group for >\$100
- Jen - Once checks are received, set it up in Montana.
- Auriel - Once Jen sets account up, need to physically stop by a US Bank somewhere during your move bw AR & MS to get authorized to write/cash checks
- Auriel - Once we have new account set up, deposit Heath's check closing Regions Bank from late November and all checks for dues from TWS

III. Media

- a. Logo
 - i. Emailed Mariah Simmons about logo being sufficient by including TWS identity in the logo designs. Our logo is sufficient.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Adonia – add TWS to the logo with text along edge of leaf on future Chico bags
- b. Google Drive
 - i. Jen created Google Drive folder to archive not only old stuff from old website (they only migrated 2013 forward), but all reports, officer info, logo, all documents that continue to recur yearly, etc.... Used WWG email to set up.

c. Website

- i. Email Mariah Simmons at msimmons@wildlife.org to update website

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen & Adonia - Compile links to other sources of wetland news instead of maintaining our own monthly update in "Wetland News" section. Get onto website.
- Johanna - Add "training opportunities" section
- Jen - Email Mariah regarding the membership directory - can we get ALL members of a Working Group listed rather than just the officers?
https://wildlife.secure.force.com/portal_memberdirectorymain

d. Newsletter

- i. Next issue will be July pub date - deadline for articles is June 16.
ii. Bob from ND is EXCITED to write feature article on herps in ag wetlands for July issue!

ACTION ITEMS:

- All – Think of folks who could write future feature articles
- Other "fill in" articles - send ideas to Adonia. We will divvy these up amongst Jen, Auriel, and Johanna to write as the deadline nears.
 - * NRCS using new method for wetlands certifications used prior to farm land conversion. Has resulted in reduction in wetland determinations & therefore protected wetland acres.
 - * Threats to ESA
 - * Threats to WOTUS
 - * New administration's EPA - Budget cuts, Scott Pruitt, effects on wetland programs...
- Adonia - Continue with "training opportunities" and "wetlands in the news" section

e. Quarterly Email

- i. March is the goal for quarterly email

ACTION ITEMS:

All - Send Jen any articles/policy info/research info to compile for more frequent email blasts to increase communication with membership, as requested at 2016 Natl. Mtg.

f. Facebook

- i. 20 members
ii. Posted December newsletter
iii. Johanna now has admin access

ACTION ITEMS:

- All - Don't forget to post pertinent articles!
- Jen - Write email/FB post/website post to get Social Media Liason to keep our page updated.

g. Membership Survey

- i. Members liked the newsletters, wanted more email/FB blasts, liked idea of hosting symposia, webinars, workshops and field trips. We will be able to do all of these except for the webinars and field trips - field trips need at least \$1000 as down payment, and we only have \$722 right now. Don't have the capacity to do webinars at this point. Symposia & workshops don't need down payments.
- ii. Some members were very interested in certain topics - could set up members as 'Liasons' on certain topics so they can update the board on that particular issue and take a lead if the

working group decides to do something in that area, i.e., Auriel is liason with SWS Wildlife Group

- iii. 73% members are willing to provide input/review on wetland-related policy issues. Keep this in mind for future position statements & keeping people up to date with wetland-related issues found in the CAN.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen - In same email/FB post/website post, see if there's any interest in folks being these "Liasons"
- Anybody going to a state TWS meeting? Promo WWG. If not this year, should prep for next year.

IV. TWS Conservation Affairs Network

- a. Jen, Adonia & Scott Yaich are current recipients of the CAN newsletters. Does anyone else on the board want to replace Jen/Adonia as new Board Member recipient?
- b. This person reads through the CAN to see if there's anything pertinent to our membership and coordinates with Scott Yaich, who helps with this task and gives his thoughts.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen - Send to Johanna to see if she's willing to be the main contact along with Scott
- Adonia – Email Scott to see if he’s continuing with TWS CAN after he retires.

V. TWS Position Statement - “Alterations of Stream, Riparian, and Wetland Habitats in the U.S.”

- a. We brought this up on the Request to Council (see above)
- b. Once TWS decides on what to do with a variety of position statements, they will let us know when it's time to submit our opinions. It's in their court at this time.

ACTION ITEMS:

VI. TWS partnership with Bayer Bee Care

<http://wildlife.org/feed-a-bee-launches-rfp-for-500000-pollinator-forage-initiative/>

Illinois state chapter is going to help with seed packets.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Jen - Ask Bryce/Dan about this
- Adonia - Continue to look into concerns by TWS member about use of science by Bayer.

VII. 2017 TWS National Meeting - Sept 23-27, Albuquerque, NM

- a. Symposium on Water, Wetlands and Wildlife
 - i. Led by Sammy King, Adam Janke, Adonia Henry
 - ii. Need 10 speakers for a half day

ACTION ITEMS

- Application due March 10th - going to have Sammy/Adam do this and take the lead. Adonia - Follow-up with Sammy and Adam about it
- Need letter of support from Jen for in order for the WWG to be recognized in the conference materials as the sponsor of the Wetlands, Water, and Wildlife symposium.

Can be short - they just require and email confirming support **prior to Mar 10**, so the deadline would be Mar 9. Email goes to Tricia Fry (tricia@wildlife.org)

- b. Group booth for ALL 29 Working Groups
 - i. Adonia sent out email to all Working Groups to drum up interest. Rangelands WG & one other WG are willing to help.
 - ii. Can any of the 4 of us attend the National Mtg?

ACTION ITEMS

- Adonia will follow up.

VIII. 2018 Arid Wetlands Symposium

- a. Partnering with SWS Wildlife Section
- b. Drew Fowler is interested in helping with this

ACTION ITEMS

- Auriel – Keep up-to-date with SWS Wildlife Section planning for symposium
- Auriel - Any other interest from people wanting to be a part of this?

IX. Next meeting at 1PM CST on 3/23/2017

Minutes prepared by: Jen Chutz